



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Pres. - Dave Hacker

V. Pres. - John Gettinger

Treasurer - Robert Shepherd

Secretary - Dale Brier

March 11, 2015 1:00 pm

Ouabache Trails Nature Center

3500 N. Lower Fort Knox Rd. Vincennes, IN 47591

Attendance

Voting Members Present:

Carroll County - George Mears
Fountain County - Bob Shepherd
Gibson County - Bill Knowles
Huntington County - Dave Hacker
Knox County - Rama Sobhani
Miami County - Keith Poole (proxy)
Parke County - Penny Cox
Posey County - Ralph Weinzapfel
Sullivan County - John Gettinger
Vermillion County - Larry Southard
Vigo County - Kara Kish
Wabash County - Mike Beauchamp
Warren County - Steve Eberly
DNR - Dale Brier (alternate)

Non-Voting Members Present:

None

Guests:

Jewell Baxter - DNR

Voting Members Absent:

Adams County - Ryan Noblitt
Allen County - Ron Zartman
Cass County - Arin Shaver
Jay County - Doug Inman
Tippecanoe County - Jim Andrew
Wells County - Scott Elzey

Meeting minutes

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda

President Dave Hacker called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm. Hacker thanked Rama Sobhani for hosting. Sobhani thanked everyone for coming and explained the plans for the Wabash Trails Nature Center renovations. Introductions were made and Dale Brier said that Ken Einselen had given his proxy to Keith Poole and James Andrew gave his proxy to the president.

Review and Approval of January 14, 2015 Minutes

Hacker asked if there were any additions to the agenda. There were no additions. John Gettinger motioned to accept the minutes from January 14, 2015 as written and George Mears seconded. The motion carried.

Comments from Visitors or Guests

Hacker mentioned the Americus group was supposed to make a presentation to the commission today, but because of the weather had cancelled. He said that the group is hoping to make their presentation at the next WRHCC meeting.

President's report

Hacker said that he met with Ken Einselen and they discussed the River Road program. He said that he also visited Doug Inman, the new Adams County commissioner, to discuss their participation as a member of the WRHCC and their River Road route. Hacker said he had driven the proposed River Road route from the Ohio line to Cass County. He said this was something that he wanted to continue doing; meeting with each member and their county commissioners to discuss the route and other issues.

Finance Report

Dale Brier passed out a copy of the financial report (see attached). He said the one thing not on the report was the 2014 encumbered grant total of \$300,000. The balance will be reduced by this amount once the contracts have been signed for the two grants.

Committee Reports

- ✿ **Budget** - Bob Shepherd passed out an updated budget. He explained that he changed the term "maintenance" to sponsorships so that everyone would understand what money was being used for. Shepherd explained that the term "other sponsorships" means money for things such as statewide projects and the term "county sponsorships" means money for county projects.
- ✿ **Grants** – Dale Brier said that he had nothing new concerning grants. Hacker said that while driving the river road he wanted to visit and get updates on the county projects that were funded with grant money from the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund.
- ✿ **Executive** – The executive committee did not meet.
- ✿ **Banks of the Wabash liaison report** – no report.

Old Business

- ✿ **Wabash River Road Route** - Ken Einselen could not attend the meeting, but he created a presentation of the River Road project and Rama Sobhani presented it. Einselen mapped out what he thought would be the best (recommended) route for each county. Hacker said that the members needed to decide soon if what Einselen had proposed as their river road route was ok to take to their county's commissioner or make changes to Ken's suggestions and then take that to their county's commissioners. Hacker explained that he did not know if each member was considering certain criteria for their road routes. Mike Beauchamp asked about having an alternate road or route. Brier suggested against it because having more than one road may cause confusion to travelers. Kara mentioned an electronic version of the map possibly being made later which would have the designated route, but also offer the traveler options of other roads which would take them closer to the river.
- ✿ **Vote on funding requests from January meeting** - Hacker said that there were two funding requests; \$1000 for the Sol Fest in Fort Wayne and \$500 for Splash at the Wabash in Huntington. Kish motioned to approve and consider them together and approve both; Shepherd seconded the motion. The motion passed. Kish asked about

clarifying how to determine out of what budget item the money for these type of request (sponsorships) are coming from. Hacker said that he wanted to set up a committee on policy and procedures to determine this.

New Business

✿ **New funding requests** - No new funding requests

- ✿ **2016 Grant project ideas** –Brier said that from the 2016 grant project ideas, public access sites received the most votes. Camping facilities was second and tied for third were trails and land acquisition. The group is hoping that by setting the criteria and creating the manual early, there would be more time to get the information out that the grants are available. Larry Southard asked if a county could be approved for more than one grant at the same time. Brier said yes. Brier mentioned that the current (2014) grant criteria priorities are public access, trails, and land acquisition, with camping being under additional amenities/facilities. He said that if they wanted to change this, then they would need to meet with him and Bob Bronson to discuss the changes. Hacker said that he, Bob Shepherd, Bob Bronson, Kara Kish and Dale Brier will get together to review the current criteria priorities and discuss making any necessary changes. A report would be emailed with any changes to the commission members and the changes would be discussed at the next meeting. Brier will email the voting records to the members within the next week. Kish motioned that they follow up on the input collected and prioritize the next grant round categories as:

1. priority public access
2. camping facilities
- 3-4. trails and water front land acquisition (tie)

Larry Southard seconded the motion and it passed. The group discussed wanting information about grant projects as they progress. The members wanted to add a clause in the contract requiring grant recipients to report back to the WRHCC on the progress of their project. Kish motioned that on the anniversary of the contract signing a written progress report must be given to the commission and within 12 months of the project completion a presentation must be made to the commission. Bill Knowles seconded the motion. The motion passed with one opposing vote. Kish will coordinate a grant committee meeting.

✿ **2015 meeting locations** -

- **May location-** Hacker said that the next meeting would be in Gibson County, however because Bill Knowles' cabin in Gibson County is not accessible, the meeting will be somewhere else. Information will be sent to members as soon as possible. *A new location we found and it is listed at the end of the minutes*
- **New date for November meeting-** A new date for the November meeting was scheduled for the 18th due to Veterans Day on the 11th. Brier will let everyone know if the meeting place will remain the same in Tippecanoe County.

Strategic Planning

Kish said that by July each member should choose their river road route, present it to their county commissioner and have it approved. The approval needs to be in writing and also include

permission for putting up signage. Approval should be given by whoever owns the roadways in the county or city; this may involve working with multiple branches of local government. A map needs to be created to make sure that all of the counties' roads chosen line up to make one continuous road. Kish stated that once the River Road routes are approved, the members would need to get an accurate inventory of how many signs to order in September. Hacker said that he wanted the signs to be placed at least 3 months after they are delivered. He said that he would help with the delivery of the signs. Kish then said that the members needed to come up with ways to promote the River Road project. This would be done with a brochure and electronic version of the road map. She said that it might be a good idea to hire an intern to create the electronic document or an app for the commission. Brier mentioned getting state recognition of the route before signs are ordered or maps made. Hacker said that they will try and meet with Will Smith of INDOT to get the state involved. Brier will send a reminder about what needs to be done before the next meeting. Individuals overseeing the goal objective are: Dave Hacker, Mike Beauchamp, Keith Poole and Ken Einselen.

Kish said according to the strategic plan, the WRHCC is to financially support projects along the Wabash River Corridor by enhancing, protecting and promoting the Wabash River Corridor through bi- annual grants. She also wants to keep track of the money coming in to the fund by communicating with the proper state agency. Bob Shepherd will help with this goal. Kish explained how the group currently operates in terms of the grant process. She said that the president creates a grant committee; they gather input from the members to get its priorities. From this list the grant criteria and manual are created. Kish will update the education portion of the strategic plan for the next meeting.

Announcements & General Reminders/Discussion

None

Upcoming committee meetings

Shepherd, Sobhani, Brier and Gettinger will serve on the committee for policy and procedure. Shepherd will chair the committee and Brier will serve as advisor.

Hacker asked about forming a program committee to set up and or organize guest speakers and presentations for the commission meetings. Keith Poole suggested that the host of the meeting make the arrangements.

Adjournment

Kish motioned to adjourn at 3:10 pm and Sobhani seconded. The motion passed.

Next Meeting: May 13, 2015 at 1:00 pm.
Owensville Community Center
302 E. Warrick Street, Owensville, IN 47665

48686 Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund

FY15 as of 2/28/2015

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
431401	AD - Oil and Gas royalty along		\$ 211,208.17
510101	Payroll Salaries & Wages	\$ 5,130.71	
516003	Payroll Social Security	\$ 359.06	
517003	Payroll Perf St Pd Em COntr	\$ 153.92	
517005	Payroll PERF State Share	\$ 574.66	
518105	Anthem CDHP1	\$ 243.59	
518107	Payroll Anthem Trad HDHP	\$ 1.33	
518151	Anthem Trad 2	\$ 346.83	
518606	Payroll Life Insurance	\$ 7.56	
518798	Payroll Delta Dental Trad	\$ 28.87	
518800	Anthem Vision	\$ 3.51	
518901	Payroll Employee Assistance	\$ 0.82	
519006	Payroll Long Term Disability	\$ 86.41	
519503	Payroll Def Comp - StateMatch	\$ 35.10	
519721	Payroll Health Savings Acct 1	\$ 28.46	
519725	HSA Health Savings Acct 2	\$ 0.08	
541002	Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	\$ 123.21	
591024	NonRealEstRnt-Vehicle Rentals	\$ 118.21	
595110	InState Travel - Mileage	\$ 4,177.36	
595120	InState Travel - Per Diem&Meal	\$ 100.60	
595130	InState Travel - Lodging	\$ 176.44	
595170	InState Travel - Parking&Tolls	\$ 3.00	
595180	InState Travel - Board Member	\$ 39.00	
599107	AdmOp - Art & Design	\$ 1,000.00	
599116	AdmOp-Event Sponsor	\$ 4,500.00	
659410	Postage	\$ 208.28	

Total FY15 Expense To Date: \$ 17,447.01

Fund Balance:	
	6/30/2014
	415,011
FY15 revenues	211,208
FY15 Expenses	17,447
FY15 Encumbrances	65,550
balance as of 02/28/2015	543,222

DNR payroll	\$ 7,000.91
travel costs	\$ 4,737.82
sponsorships	\$ 4,500.00
operating	\$ 1,208.28
Total	\$ 17,447.01